

Vickers Charles R. (DNREC)

Received

From: jjsikora [jjsikora@verizon.net]
Sent: Sunday, April 30, 2006 1:54 PM
To: Vickers Charles R. (DNREC); Holland Connie (OMB)
Cc: Joe Farrell; Joan Deaver; David Baird
Subject: Open Space.

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Division of Parks & Recreation
 Directors Office

Mr. Vickers:

The natural resources of Sussex County are not only those areas in which conservation is required. They are in and of themselves the cash cow that keeps this coffers full and Sussex counties taxes low.

The State has failed however, to implement and sustain by law/ legislation with significant teeth...a regional plan design which would integrate and facilitate growth in this area. As such, the land use plans of the incorporated towns and the Sussex county land use plans are not in any collaborative format. There was never an attempt to even remotely consider the establishment of a community- open land use plan which would have allowed advanced regional planning for: open space, water and waste and storm water utilities, recreation, commercial and industrial areas , commercial farming areas, or school, social and residential areas.

Development, particularly within the beach areas, was quick, and overwhelming, poorly designed, planned and designated, and potentially harmful to the natural resources which are the mainstay of this counties economy. Fresh water, waste water and storm water management issues and deficits continue to be of considerable concern in terms of acquisition and maintenance. Fouling of streams and rivers and estuaries...complicate the issues, as it impacts quite negatively both on public safety and on the public use of the recreational areas which continue to provide income and sustenance to this area.

Now at the 11th hour, the State is coming forth with a plan to devise a land use plan that will incorporate all of the wonderful things that we have been more than ardent in our attempts to bring to the front burner for the past several years. The question is, is this too little too late. The bigger question, is how are the incorporated communities going to agree to the changes in land use planning, while the Sussex county planning folks continue to approve unbridled development and reap considerable income. Incorporated communities, have no say on what the county may approve to sit on their boundaries. Since the county has not seen fit to include some of their windfall into subsidizing waste water/storm water treatment for the developments they approve, The incorporated towns are surrounded by septic systems the designs of which fail, and foul the water

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table around them. The incorporated towns are not being give the opportunity to negotiate the land use that surrounds them. Jeopardy on several different levels comes to mind. The impact of development in one area does not just impact the area that it is in, it effects everything around it.

The State needs to address some of these issues, and to present some way of initiating a regional county-wide plan that complements each entity in the county, and embraces the open space and designated areas which would be of benefit to all. "To All, being the operative word here.

Sussex County deserves better than what it is getting. It needs some very clear regional planning design that will maintain the cash cow, and the economic reserves it delivers. It can't do that, if the plan is to overwhelm its resources and to create a place where the quality of life for everyone is diminished and destroyed. Hopefully, it is not to late. But the task is huge by definition. Would like to see some 'real' action taken here.

Respectfully yours, Joy J. Sikora, Georgetown, DE.

Received

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